

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

I strongly urge the FCC to act as the advocate for the individual consumer of media rather than on behalf of the producers. The burden should be placed on media owners to demonstrate that their requests for deregulation will actually benefit individual consumers. Regard for the profit margins of media companies is inappropriate as a criteria for the FCC when making these decisions. Freedom of expression is gravely threatened by this unwarranted consolidation of voices. The only justification for removing these few remaining safeguards against concentration of media power is profit-motive.

Free markets and government regulation can work in concert to serve both the reasonable interests of media corporations and the imperatives of diverse voices speaking clearly in a democracy. I implore you to fulfill your obligation to the public interest by maintaining these regulations as a mechanism for insuring the continuing multiplicity of points of view essential to a thriving republic.